



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 6 February 2024 in Detling Village Hall

Present: Cllr Clive English (Chairman), Cllr Stephen Thompson (Vice Chairman), Cllr Steve Jubb, Cllr Laura Maclaren and Cllr Val Springett; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were twelve members of the public.

Cllr English welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Time

No matters were raised

17. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Lawrence Rustem (unwell).

18. Declaration of Interest. or Lobbying

Cllr English declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 being a Member of Maidstone Borough Council Planning Committee so will not discuss or vote on planning applications other than to give procedural and technical advice.

Cllr Springett declared membership of Bearsted Parish Council which instigated the Co-ordinated Parishes Traffic Group.

19. Dispensations

None were requested.

20. Items to be taken in closed session

It was considered that item 12c may have to be taken in closed session if protected information is discussed.

21. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 2 January 2024

a) To consider the minutes of the previous meetings and if in order sign as a true record
Cllr English **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

b) Matters arising from the minutes (except those issues appearing under specific headings)

All matters on the agenda.

22. Standing Orders

Cllr Springett **PROPOSED** to accept the revised Standing Orders as amended: **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

23. Code of Conduct Consultation

Cllr English said the revised Code of Conduct and dealing with complaints had been reviewed by Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and will go to Full Council on 21 February. The outline document should be approved and any further comments sent to the Clerk and Chairman by 16 February. It is a technical document.

Cllr Thompson thanked Cllr English for his sterling work on Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct.

24. Visitors

MBCllr Thompson reported that the Parish Council is trying to push road safety measures with Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council. Everyone had in mind the recent anniversary of the tragic loss of life of Jade Hobbs and her grandmother and also the tragic accident in Thurnham Lane on 20 January. MBCllr Thompson expressed his gratitude for the networking between officer, representatives and residents.

25. Correspondence

MBC: Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan – Review

It was agreed that Cllr Maclaren, Cllr Jubb and one other meet with Conservation Officer.

Pennies Day Nursery

Pennies has another project for Monks Meadow.

ACTION: site meeting to be arranged.

26. Planning

Councillors noted that MBC Planning Enforcement had been successful in court proceeding concerning a planning breach on the North Downs.

23/505534/FULL Land North East Of The M20 And South East Of Water Lane Thurnham Proposed engineering operations for excavation of soils and deposited materials, and regrading and restoration of land (resubmission 22/502512/FULL).

Cllr Thompson reported that he had attended Bearsted Parish Council Planning Committee as Detling Parish Council is concerned about issues in the area. Evidence needs to be submitted regarding current usage.

27. Proposed diversion of Public Footpath KH8 (part), Boxley & Detling

Councillors noted that the proposal is to direct the footpath around the edge of the field. It was agreed that unless further information comes to light, there was no objection to the proposal.

ACTION: Circulate proposal documents

28. Financial Matters

a) Finance report

Received and noted.

b) Invoices for payment

Cheque no	Payee	Reason	Nett	VAT	Total
500080	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd	Payroll fees	30.00	6.00	£36.00
500081	Paul Waring	Grounds maintenance	1,100.00	220.00	£1320.00

500082	Administration	Expenses			£77.45
500083	Detling Village Hall	Room Hire	24.00		£24.00
500084-85	Staff costs				

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to make the payments: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

c) To consider request from Community Store to waive the last three payments of the loan Deferred to closed session at the end of meeting.

29. Highways

a) To receive an update

Cllr Maclaren reported that there had been a formal meeting with Kent Highways to discuss the Highways Improvement Plan. Looking at the safety concerns, Kent Highways has suggested traffic surveys for week commencing 26 February; the A249 will be closed that week and this may affect the volume of traffic. Residents are concerned about speeding vehicles and if the survey is deferred, the parish may have to wait another year for one. The survey will help evidence the needs for highways improvements and the sites have been agreed. The Parish Council will have to fund improvements and the main aim is to reduce the speed of traffic and deal with parking problems. Another concern is to protect the Tudor gate and wall. The Council is trying to get Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and suitable sites need to be identified and this is problematic as obvious sites do not meet the criteria. Extending the speed limit from Queens Way to the sign was discussed and also the reduction of the speed in Church Lane which is currently national speed limit. If the village speed limit were reduced it would help to get the speed of Church Lane reduced.

Cllr English thanked Cllr Maclaren for her report and hard work.

b) Co-ordinated Parishes Traffic Group - to receive an update

Cllr Springett reported that the group has had its first meeting with ten attendees representing eight parishes. All the Parish Councils have issues in lanes with speeding and HGVs, it is hoped the group will band together and have more of an impact on highways issues. The group considered purchasing a SID which will cost £7-9,000 and could be shared between the parishes.

Cllr English thanked Cllr Springett for her report and hard work.

c) Church Lane road name

Cllr Springett informed Members that she had spoken to MBC Street Naming Officer who has confirmed that they have the name listed as Church Lane but this does not exist on online search engines. If the parish wishes for it to be Church Lane, MBC will update this and also erect a street name plate.

It was agreed at the meeting for the road to be Church Lane

ACTION: Clerk to contact MBC.

d) To consider the purchase of a grit bin

Councillors considered the quotations and noted that it would need to be sited in a suitable location for use on the bridge only.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to purchase a grit bin for £108.99 from Kingfisher Direct; **SECONDED** by Cllr Springett: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

e) To consider quotation for posts

Councillors considered the quotation and agreed more information was required.

ACTION: Clerk to check specification.

Cllr Jubb reported that some steps to Jade's Crossing need repairing.
ACTION: Cllr Jubb to report.

30. Open Spaces

a) Monks Meadow -To receive an update

Mr Daren Seal had sent a written report:

Ongoing scrub removal by John Monk all over the winter period has cleaned the areas up nicely: The paths have seen ongoing placement of wood chippings to alleviate muddy areas, but lack of chippings has been an issue, some paths still require attention and we see this as an ongoing remedial work throughout the year: we are waiting for the ground to harden so deliveries can be placed throughout the meadow for ease of distribution in the later months (when access is restricted due to water). Mowing has commenced with the tidying up the main entrance, Village Gate areas etc., this will now continue as we see the drier weather. There will be a requirement to repair the fences and remove the overhanging trees as discussed during the site walk round. It would be appreciated if the Council could commit to the posts being supplied as previously identified, in order that the fence may be repaired. We will submit details of the tree removal in due course

ACTION: Clerk to obtain fence post quotes for next agenda.

b) Horish Woods- to receive an update

Mr Daren Seal had sent a written report:

John has worked tirelessly in removing scrub, sorting out overgrown routes and the continued placement of wood chippings to pathways making areas much more accessible: the area within the main entrance and beyond (up to the main wooded area) look incredible. We have seen a vast improvement in people picking up after their dogs now that the paths are not overgrown, this is most beneficial for everyone. Paths will be kept cut back throughout the year with ongoing maintenance made easier through John's efforts

Cllr English thanked Mr Monk for his tireless and selfless work in Monks Meadow and Horish Woods, this is greatly appreciated by the parish.

c) Play area- to receive an update

Cllr English reported that wider quotes and information have been requested.

d) To consider quotation for grounds maintenance

Cllr English said the Council needs to ensure that maintenance is carried out as per the schedule. A map of the showing Kent County Council's liability needs to be obtained.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation for grounds maintenance from Paul Waring: **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ACTION: Clerk to request schedule.

31. Princes Way Alley

Cllr English said there was nothing specific to report.

Cllr Springett reported that she had emailed the KCC Cabinet Member to ascertain what is being done to clear the five-year backlog. The officer needs to be asked if they have enough information.

32. Community Resilience

Cllr English reported there has been positive responses from organisations and from the residents. A list of people is being collated. Some Councillors have been on training. This will help the Council form a strategy.

33. Land issues

Cllr English said further information is required.

34. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 5 March 2024

35. Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the request from Community Store to waive the last three payments of the loan.

Deferred to next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.46pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman
Date: 5 March 2024